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ABOUT MATTIE MIRACLE



The [**Mattie Miracle Cancer Foundation**](#) is a 501(c)(3) Public Charity (EIN: 27-1238358), founded by Peter and Victoria Brown, in the loving memory of Mattie, their seven year-old son who passed away in 2009 after a 14 month battle with multi-focal osteosarcoma.

Mattie Miracle is dedicated to addressing the psychosocial needs of children and families living with childhood cancer as well as educating health care providers on the impact of such a diagnosis on children and their families.

To learn more about Mattie's life and his parent's grief process visit the [**Mattie Blog**](#).



MATTIE MIRACLE CORE OBJECTIVES

To advocate, educate, and enhance awareness of the psychosocial needs of children with cancer and their families.

To provide direct psychosocial support services to children with cancer and their families.

To create and implement a national psychosocial standard of care.

Historic Day in Columbus, Ohio

Pictured Above: Kathryn Kirkpatrick, Ph.D., LISW-S (Vice Chairperson of the Association of Pediatric Hematology Oncology Educational Specialists (APHOES); Educational Coordinator at Nationwide Children's Hospital), Victoria Sardi-Brown, Ph.D., LPC (Mattie Miracle Co-Founder), Peter J. Brown, MBA (Mattie Miracle Co-Founder) and Megan Elam, Ed.D. (School Intervention Specialist, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center)

CONTRIBUTE

Making Miracles Together!

On May 1, 2014, the co-founders of Mattie Miracle were invited to Columbus, Ohio to deliver a keynote address at the Association of Pediatric Hematology Oncology Educational Specialists (**APHOES**) and Association for the Education of Children with Medical Needs (**AECMN**) joint conference. While at that conference the co-founders were introduced to a key representative from the Ohio Department of Health who was interested in Mattie Miracle's message and vision for the development of a National Childhood Cancer Psychosocial Standard of Care.

Mattie Miracle was invited back to Columbus, Ohio on June 20, 2014, to deliver a **keynote address at the Ohio Department of Health Conference**. Ohio is re-examining its State cancer plan and developing a comprehensive pediatric psychosocial cancer care plan in 2015, the first of its kind in the United States. Making this conference a historical event! The purpose of a State plan is to provide an organized approach to cancer prevention and control efforts for an entire State. A plan is intended for use by individuals and organizations, in all areas of cancer prevention and control, statewide.

Mattie Miracle was invited to the conference to deliver a keynote address entitled, "**The Journey Toward a National Psychosocial Standard of Care for Childhood Cancer**." The co-founders were graciously introduced by Dr. Kathryn Kirkpatrick the Vice Chairperson of APHOES (an organization Mattie Miracle has recently become professionally connected

with) and shared with attendees the vision, history, and progress to date of the Psychosocial Standard of Care for Childhood Cancer. A vision which began with Mattie Miracle in March of 2012, when the Foundation hosted a Psychosocial Symposium in the Capitol Hill Visitor's Center. The Symposium was the spring board which helped to assemble a formidable group of over 50 multidisciplinary healthcare professionals from around the United States, Canada, and the Netherlands.

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Mattie Miracle acknowledges our core team of researchers and clinicians who oversees this project and embraces our vision for such a Standard of Care. With them all things are possible toward its development.

**Lori Wiener**, Ph.D., DCSW (Director of the Psychosocial Support and Research Program, National Cancer Institute)

**Mary Jo Kupst**, Ph.D. (Emerita Professor of Pediatrics at the Medical College of Wisconsin and Mattie Miracle Psychosocial Consultant)

**Anne Kazak**, Ph.D., ABPP (Co-Director, Center for Healthcare Delivery Science at Nemours Pediatric Health System)

**Bob Noll**, Ph.D. (Director of the Division of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics and Assistant Medical Director for Behavioral Health at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh)

**Andrea Patenaude**, Ph.D. (Director of Psycho-Oncology Research in the Division of Pediatric Oncology, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute)

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## Educating Trauma Counselors

On June 21, 2014, Mattie Miracle was invited to the George Washington University to deliver a two hour lecture on "**Childhood Cancer and Its Effects.**" The audience was comprised of master's and doctoral level students training to become trauma counselors.

The Foundation presented an overview of childhood cancer facts, information about Mattie Miracle's mission and activities, and then highlighted the research literature on trauma and childhood cancer. The story of Mattie Brown was integrated throughout the presentation, which not only enabled the students to learn about a heroic seven year old boy, but through these stories and hearing reflections and insights from Mattie's battle with cancer, the clinical significance of the research literature came alive.

Students were also introduced to a model which mental health professionals frequently use to help them understand the nature, symptomatology, and interventions for medical traumatic stress. In addition to the didactic presentation, students were given time to work on a case study in small groups in order to apply the intervention model they learned to a patient case.

The President of Mattie Miracle captured the above photo of this dynamic class along with one of her counseling mentors, Dr. Sylvia Marotta (front row, left), the class' instructor. Mattie Miracle believes in educating the next generation about the psychosocial impact of childhood cancer and welcomes the opportunity to be able to do this within an academic setting in order to prepare clinicians for the issues they will inevitably face within the community.

### Contact Information

#### **Victoria Sardi-Brown, Ph.D., LPC**

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#### **Peter J. Brown, MBA**

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### Upcoming Events

**September 21, 2014 - CureFest on the Washington Mall:** In honor of National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month come visit the Foundation's Co-Founders and exhibit table on the National Mall from **9:00am to 1:30pm**.

**October 22, 2014 - PRESENTATION:** When tragedy inspires hope: A parents' call to action to create and implement a psychosocial standard of care for childhood cancer [**Congress of the International Society of Paediatric Oncology (SIOP)**, Toronto, Canada].

**October 25, 2014 - PRESENTATION:** Why Quality of Life guides the development of the National Psychosocial Standard of Care for Childhood Cancer Project [**Congress of the International Society of Paediatric Oncology (SIOP)**, Toronto, Canada].

**October 31, 2014 -** Fourth Annual Post Halloween Candy Drive.

**November 22, 2014 -** Presenters at **Speciallove** for children with cancer's parent getaway weekend, George Washington Inn, Winchester, VA.



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